

Governor's Logistics Task Force Meeting
October 12, 2011
Raleigh, NC

Lt. Governor Walter Dalton, Chairman of the Logistics Task Force, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 in Raleigh with the following members present:

Dee Freeman, Gene Conti, Dan Danieleley, Earl Brinkley, Beth Austin, Danny McComas, Jed McMillan attended on behalf of Keith Crisco.

Tom Eagar, Gary Teng and Mike Evers (on behalf of Paul Friday) participated via conference call.

Chairman Dalton welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their participation. He introduced Tyler Bray, NCDOT Statewide Plan Engineer. Mr. Bray thanked the Task Force for the opportunity to discuss the NC 2040 Plan. He introduced Mark Boggs, Atkins Global, who presented information regarding the NC 2040 Plan. Mr. Boggs shared the objective of his presentation to define 2040 Plan objectives and gain Logistics Task Force input on necessary policy directions that are critical to achieving North Carolina's economic opportunity goals. He stated the 2040 Plan reflects NCDOT's mission and goals that drive the delivery to transportation infrastructure and services. The 2040 Plan objectives are to merge recent/ongoing statewide policy initiatives into adopted transportation plan; to address statewide trends and challenges; to provide Board of Transportation program and policy direction and to define transportation investment priorities responsive to funding realities. Mr. Boggs stated the Logistics Task Force Plan somewhat overlaps the 2040 Plan.

Chairman Dalton asked to what extent are we tracking new innovations or inventions in order to speed up construction. Mr. Boggs was unsure about anything and he referred the question to Roberto Canales. Mr. Canales informed Chairman Dalton that he is unaware of any specific innovations or inventions; however, he is sure there are proposals in process. Chairman Dalton also asked if there have been any incentives for have people living inside the beltway, closer to their work place. Mr. Boggs stated there has been some thought on this and there has been some consideration regarding the strategic areas. Scott Saylor, North Carolina Railroad, asked if there has been any thought within the 2040 Plan regarding Rail hubs being located in downtown areas. Mr. Boggs stated not specifically; however, Pat Simmons, NCDOT Rail Director, has been looking into the long term needs of rail facilities.

Chairman Dalton introduced Dan Danieleley. Mr. Danieleley shared information with the Logistics Task Force regarding the amended recommendation of the Regional Hub Design Subcommittee. He stated the subcommittee stands in support of all of the other recommendation that have been made including the 7 Portals Study; however, they also want to consider the following recommendations. Primary consideration should be given to connectivity between ports (global gateways) and major NC economic hubs. Beltways must be developed and/or expanded to provide bypass and effective traffic flow on major interstate highways.

Mr. Danieleley stated that it is very important that we remember the State's agriculture industry is wide-spread over each of the State's economic regions. The subcommittee recommends the Logistics Coordinating Council should create a work group to undertake the study of agricultural products to determine the requirements to handle these products in a cost effective manner, how products move today and why, and what action would be required to offer a competitive service utilizing North Carolina's ports. Other areas in which the subcommittee made recommendations include the Military, Rail Infrastructure, Port Infrastructure and Aviation/Aeronautics. Danny McComas asked if any consideration had been given to moving rail out of the Port of Wilmington across the river tying it in with the proposed Cape Fear Skyway project so that rail does not have to go through downtown Wilmington and then doing something similar in Morehead. Mr. Danieleley stated the subcommittee did not look at that detail in particular; however, he would like to add this recommendation to the subcommittees list to be investigated.

Chairman Dalton stated that he thought all of these recommendations were good; however, he thinks the Task Force should wait and see what is done with the 7 Portals Study because this could shift some things.

Chairman Dalton asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the September 20, 2011 meeting. A motion was made by Earl Brinkley, which was seconded by Dan Danieleley. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Dalton introduced Dr. George List, NCSU ITRE, who provided an update on the 7 Portals Study. Dr. List shared a summary to revisions that have been made to the document. Earl Brinkley asked if any comments had been made regarding Hwy. 17. Dr. List stated yes. Dee Freeman asked if these documents have been submitted to the military. Charlie Diehl stated they have not at this point; however, this is something that can be done. Mr. Freeman stated it would be a good idea to get the information to them requesting their input. Chairman Dalton suggested the document go out with a cover letter stating we would like to hear from them by a certain time. This should be sent out to the broader group not only MCI East.

Chairman Dalton stated the Task Force is now beginning to focus on the final recommendations. He stated that he did send out a letter on the issue of Governance. One thing that came out loud and clear in the subcommittee reports is that everybody is all for the "one stop shop". Earl Brinkley stated the importance of this. In looking at this concept there has been some concern with the NCRR. It is a separate stand-alone entity. Over time this is a good thing and there is flexibility there. Chairman Dalton stated that there needs to be as much cooperation as possible between NCRR and NCDOT. Something that has been discussed to help with this is to have cross representation between the Boards. A member of the Board of Transportation (or more than one) would also be a member of the NCRR Board. Chairman Dalton stated the need to get to one source contact. Gene Conti would like to see continued discussion on this topic. He stated the Logistics Coordinating Council got off to a good start. Danny McComas and Tom Bradshaw offered positive comments in working toward the one source contact.

Chairman Dalton also discussed possible changes in the Board of Transportation. The Board of Transportation is currently based along NCDOT's 14 divisions. The recommendation is to allow systematic change in the Board of Transportation to have a single member from each of the seven economic development regions. Over time this change would reduce the overall size of the Board from 19 to 15 members, with the remaining members representing specific issue areas.

Another suggestion discussed is making the Secretary of Transportation the Chair of the Board of Transportation. Danny McComas asked if this was leading into the secretary being a permanent position, not based on administration change. Chairman Dalton stated this would have to be discussed based on the Personnel Act. Gene Conti feels having the gubernatorial control on the secretary position is a good thing. It could cause conflicts if the secretary is selected by a commission or others. Chairman Dalton stated that there needs to be a very high level person in transportation that is not political that could keep things running even with political changes. There will be further discussion regarding this.

Chairman Dalton also discussed making the existing North Carolina State Ports Authority Board of Directors and advisory council to the Board of Transportation. Also, appointment of subcommittee chairs from Board of Transportation to oversee the areas and issues previously addressed by the Aeronautics and Rail Councils. With respect to these subcommittees, public members should be allowed to provide input on an as needed basis as well.

Chairman Dalton shared information regarding the work that has been done on the idea of the inland ports. Earl Brinkley feels as we look at the GTP as an inland port verses other inland ports there would be some differences. Dan Danielely concurred that we need to look at GTP today as to where it is and where it needs to go. Chairman Dalton stated that if you make it a regional asset you get more buy in and not only get people and counties working together for this regional asset, but perhaps they work better in other areas. Dee Freeman stated if the regional approach is consistent with existing requirements from the environmental side, both from the state and EPA standpoint, you will find that things will move quicker. Chairman Dalton stated those areas of governance were topics of discussion today. Some final recommendations will be worked on.

Chairman Dalton introduced Secretary Gene Conti who shared information with the Task Force regarding the Urban Loop Projects. The Governor announced several weeks ago the acceleration plan for the urban loop program. NDOT developed a program recently on how we could accelerate the program. It was estimated under the current funding it would take almost 50 years to complete the program at a cost of \$8 billion. We have now put together a plan to use the GARVEE program to assist in accelerating the urban loop program.

Chairman Dalton stated that staff will be in touch with information before the next meeting. He asked that everyone please continue to work with staff on their comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.